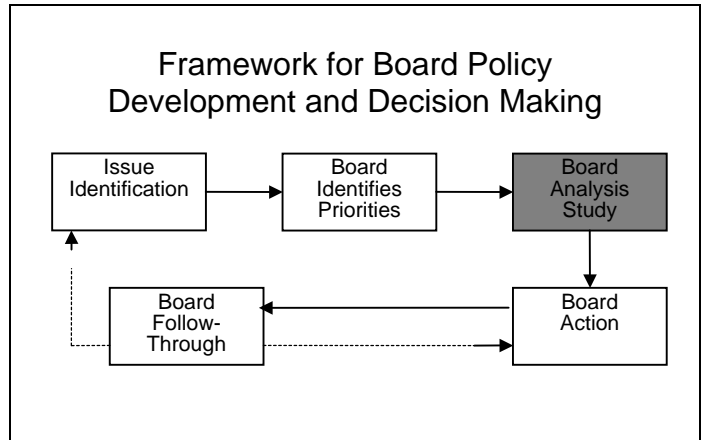


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary
February 7, 2007



- Agenda Item:** One District's Story: Providing a Quality Preschool Program
- Iowa Goal:** 1. All children will enter school ready to learn.
- Equity Impact Statement:** Quality early childhood education provides children with readiness skills they need to be successful in school and reduces achievement gaps.
- Presenter:** Dan Vogeler, Principal, Columbus Community School District
Jo Ann Christofferson, Consultant
Victoria Benz, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Eileen Heck, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Debra Negley, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
- Attachments:** 1
- Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.
- Background:** The Columbus Preschool at Roundy Elementary in rural Columbus Junction, IA is a high quality preschool program that is currently serving sixty-five students. What started out as one classroom in the Columbus School District sixteen years ago has grown into four classrooms. Of these four classrooms for 3, 4, and 5 year olds, three of them are full inclusion rooms.

What It Takes to Nurture a Quality Pre-Kindergarten Program: Key Components

Columbus Community School District
February 7, 2007

Support of the Policy Makers

- ✓ School Board
- ✓ Administration

Funding

- ✓ Shared Visions
- ✓ Empowerment
- ✓ Special Education
- ✓ Early Reading First

Highly Qualified Teachers

- ✓ 4 year Teaching Degree
- ✓ Early Childhood Endorsement/Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement
- ✓ Knowledge of appropriate curriculum, instruction, and assessment for young children
- ✓ Knowledge of learning theory

Learning Environment

- ✓ Language Rich
- ✓ Appropriate Furniture and Materials
- ✓ Structure and Consistency
- ✓ ELLCO (Early Language & Literacy Classroom Observation) used for assessing classroom environment and curriculum

Learning and Instructional Framework

- ✓ Focus: vocabulary, phonemic awareness, print awareness, letter knowledge, concept building, mathematics, school readiness
- ✓ Standards and Benchmarks
- ✓ Assessment
- ✓ Instructional Strategies
- ✓ Curricular Resources

Professional Development

- ✓ On-going and relevant to teachers of four-year olds
- ✓ Focus:
 - key literacy components for beginning readers and writers
 - learning environment
 - thinking, oral language, numeracy, and literacy development
 - using assessment to guide instruction
 - school readiness strategies such as self-regulation
 - standards and benchmarks for literacy, mathematics, and science
 - routines and daily schedules
 - raising expectations
- ✓ Theory and Research
- ✓ Making the link from theory to practice
- ✓ Coaching, support, and feedback for teachers are embedded

Family Involvement

- ✓ Family Agreement
- ✓ Home Visits
- ✓ Parent Education Classes
- ✓ Family Nights

Transition to Kindergarten

- ✓ Professional Development with Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Teachers
- ✓ Kindergarten Registration
- ✓ Summer Transition Program into Kindergarten

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